

Bidder's Requirements for Solicitation and Documentation
of
Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Participation
On State Revolving Fund (SRF) Projects

A goal-oriented system has been established to promote **Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE)** participation by providing construction services, professional services, supplies, and/or equipment on SRF Loan-funded water and wastewater projects. It is the Bidder's responsibility to make a good faith effort to secure participation by **DBE** subcontractors, professional service providers, suppliers, and/or equipment vendors.

DEFINITIONS

DBE - Minority Business Enterprise (MBE): A qualified socially and economically disadvantaged minority-owned business certified by any State or Federal agency, such as the Tennessee Department of Transportation, U.S. EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, or the U.S. Small Business Administration.

DBE - Women's Business Enterprise (WBE): A qualified independent business at least 51% owned by a woman or women and certified by any State or Federal agency such as the Tennessee Department of Transportation, U.S. EPA's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, or the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Fair-Share Goals: The MBE fair-share goal is 2.6% for construction and 5.2% for supplies, services, and equipment. The WBE fair share goal is 2.6% for construction and 5.2% for supplies, services, and equipment.

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS

Pre-Bid Requirements

All Bidders must send letters by certified mail with return receipt requested to a minimum of 10 certified **DBE** subcontractors, professional service providers, suppliers, and/or equipment vendors to solicit their subcontract participation in the work. Lists of certified **DBE** firms may be obtained from various State and Federal agencies, including the following:

Tennessee Department of Transportation
Small Business Development
505 Deaderick Street, Suite 1800
Nashville, TN 37243-0347
(615) 741-3681

http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/construction/DBE%20list/dbe_list.pdf

Mr. W. Clinton Smith, District Director
U.S. Small Business Administration
50 Vantage Way, Suite 201
Nashville, TN 37228
(615) 736-5881

<http://pro-net.sba.gov/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (1230A)
Washington, D.C. 20460
(202) 564-4100
<http://www.epa.gov/osdbu/>

Post-Bid Requirements

Whether or not DBE participation was obtained, the successful Bidder (Prime Contractor) must maintain supporting documents such as certification lists, solicitation documents, letters of intent, contracts, etc., for the duration of the project.

If DBE participation was obtained, the apparent successful Bidder must identify to the Loan Recipient all **DBE** firms to be utilized on the contract and the respective **DBE** type--subcontractors, supplies vendors, service providers, and/or equipment vendors (see "Loan Recipient's Certification and Summary" form). Copies of the State's or Federal agency's **DBE** certification list(s) identifying that the **DBE** firms are certified minority or women's business enterprises must be provided to the Loan Recipient. In addition, copies of the **Prime Contractor's Notice Letter for EPA Form 6100-2, EPA Form 6100-3** (to be co-completed by the Prime Contractor and each DBE subcontractor), and **EPA Form 6100-4** must also be provided to the Loan Recipient prior to tentative loan award. The Prime Contractor must provide **EPA Form 6100-2** to each **DBE** utilized on the contract.

If no DBE participation was obtained by the apparent successful Bidder, it remains the responsibility of the Prime Contractor to provide documentation to the Loan Recipient, prior to contract award, that a good faith effort was made to obtain **DBE** participation. Copies of the **certified letters** sent to a minimum of 10 qualified **DBE** potential subcontractors, supplies vendors, service providers, and/or equipment vendors and the corresponding **return mail receipts** are the only documentation of a good-faith effort that will be acceptable to the Loan Recipient.

*Failure to provide the required certified letters, return receipts, State or Federal agency **DBE** certification list(s), **Prime Contractor's Notice Letter for EPA Form 6100-2, EPA Form 6100-3, and EPA Form 6100-4** to the Loan Recipient may delay the contract award until the required documentation has been provided to and accepted by the Loan Recipient.*